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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

In this holiday season, O generous One, may our eyes be open to the abundance of blessings You have bestowed on us. As we spend time with family and friends, may we appreciate the gifts they truly are to us—companions in life, counselors in perplexity, comrades in adventures.

As we celebrate religious holidays and traditional festivities, cause us to discover the less obvious reasons to rejoice: the return home of an estranged son or daughter; the coherence, albeit fleeting, of a loved one lost to dementia; the exhilaration of a favorite family board game.

With these blessings and delights before us, may we acknowledge our responsibility to foster these fellowships throughout the year, to cultivate and cherish the moments we have been given, and to own up to our commitments to the flourishing of these relationships.

We are those to whom much has been given. May we meet the expectations that attend these blessings.

By Your grace, and in Your merciful name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the Chamber her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LUPE FRAGA

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the legacy of a local Houston legend, the late Lupe Fraga.

Lupe Fraga, known affectionately as "Champ" was a community legend who grew up in Houston's East End in my district.

Over the decades, Champ became known as a pioneer in the Latino business community, a dedicated public servant, and an honorable veteran who served in the United States Army.

Champ founded Tejas Office Products in 1962 to provide Houstonians with high-quality and affordable office supplies.

As a businessowner, he also supported local school supply drives and helped support minority-owned businesses in our region.

He eventually served on the Houston branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, was a regent at the Texas A&M University, and a member and director of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Champ was one of Houston's best. He was a true leader. Champ and his friendly smile will be missed by everyone. My condolences and best wishes to his family as they put him to rest in Houston today.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF JERRY BROOKS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jerry Brooks, the chief of the Clemmons Volunteer Fire Department in Forsyth County, North Carolina. At the end of this month, Jerry will be retiring after 51 years of service to the Clemmons community.

Everyone who knows Jerry can attest to the caliber of his character, his unwavering servant's heart, and his profound love for our great country.

Since the September 11 attacks, Jerry has led the Clemmons Volunteer Fire Department in honoring those who lost their lives that day by displaying a magnificent 40- by 60-foot American flag every year.

Madam Speaker, I consider Jerry Brooks to be a true patriot in every sense of the word.

I congratulate Jerry on his well-earned retirement. May God bless him, his wonderful wife, Karen, and his entire family as he enters this next chapter of his life.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the people's House for one final time.

It is hard to sum up the lessons that I have learned over my decades of service in 1 minute, so instead, I would just like to say thank you.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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